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Request for the inclusion of a supplementary item in the agenda of the fifty-fifth session

Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of United Nations peacekeeping operations

Letter dated 14 August 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In accordance with rule 14 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, I have the honour to request the inclusion in the agenda of the fifty-fifth session of the General Assembly of a supplementary item entitled "Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of United Nations peacekeeping operations".

In accordance with rule 20 of the rules of procedure, an explanatory memorandum is attached.

(*Signed*) Bernd **Niehaus**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 14 August 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Explanatory memorandum

Peacekeeping operations now constitute one of the most important activities of the United Nations, and safeguarding the important task of peacekeeping is a responsibility that involves all Member States, especially as far as the expenses of such operations are concerned.

The circumstances under which the methodology used to apportion the expenses of peacekeeping operations among Member States was designed have changed. It is clear that the political and economic context in which the Organization must operate now requires a redefinition of the current special scale. For this reason, it is relevant to examine whether the current special scale of assessments for peacekeeping operations is the most appropriate one to enable the Organization to discharge its responsibilities effectively in this area, in a renewed international context in which it is expected and required to do so. The review of the scale of assessments should, however, be carried out solely on the principle of a fair share in accordance with the level of economic development of each country. The methodology for determining the scale of assessments should adhere strictly to the principle of capacity to pay. In this connection, Costa Rica will not support any effort to amend the scale that would imply the abandonment of this principle.

Lastly, the item on the methodology of the scale of assessments should continue to be assigned to the Fifth Committee, in order to safeguard its highly technical and financial nature and, to the extent possible, prevent the discussion of the item from evolving into a political discussion.